
DECISION MEMO
NIX WATERLINE AUTHORIZATION
U.S. FOREST SERVICE
COLD SPRINGS-POTEAU RANGER DISTRICT
SCOTT COUNTY, ARKANSAS

BACKGROUND

The purpose of this project is to authorize access for the installation of a water line within the existing road corridor to the David Nix property. It would cross approximately 300 feet of National Forest System (NFS) land in Compartments 289 and 290 located in Section 18, Township 3 North, Range 27 West in Scott County, Arkansas.

DECISION

I have decided to authorize a special use permit for the use identified above. This activity falls into categories of action that may be excluded from documentation in an environmental impact statement (EIS) or an environmental assessment (EA), which the Chief of the Forest Service has determined will not have a significant effect on the human environment:

Approval, modification, or continuation of minor special uses of NFS lands that require less than five contiguous acres of land. (36 CFR 220.6(e)(3))

Applicable protective measures set forth in the 2005 Revised Forest Plan for the Ouachita National Forest would be followed.

I find that there are no extraordinary circumstances that would warrant further analysis and documentation in an EA or EIS. I took into account resource conditions identified in agency procedures that should be considered in determining whether extraordinary circumstances might exist:

- Federally listed threatened or endangered species or designated critical habitat, species proposed for Federal listing or proposed critical habitat, or Forest Service sensitive species – the action will have no effect or impact on PETS species. Also reviewed was the Regional Forester's (USDA Forest Service Region 8) Sensitive species list with a determination that the subject use will have no impact on any Sensitive species or habitat occurring on the district. (Biological Evaluation, p. 13).
- Flood plains, wetlands, or municipal watersheds – no adverse impacts to floodplains, wetlands, or municipal watersheds are expected with the installation of this waterline.
- Congressionally designated areas such as wilderness, wilderness study areas, or national recreation areas – none are present within the project area; none will be affected.

- Inventoried roadless areas or potential wilderness areas – none are present within the project area; none will be affected.
- Research natural areas – none are present within the project area; none will be affected.
- American Indians and Alaska Native religious or cultural sites – none are present within the project area; none will be affected.
- Archaeological sites, or historic properties or areas –no known archaeological sites or historic properties or areas will be affected by this undertaking. Concurrence from Arkansas State Historic Preservation Office was received on October 5, 2020.

PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT

A letter initiating scoping for this project was mailed to individuals and organizations on the District NEPA mailing list on August 26, 2020 inviting comments and input. No comments expressing opposition or concern were received.

FINDINGS REQUIRED BY OTHER LAWS AND REGULATIONS

This decision is consistent with the Revised Forest Plan as required by the National Forest Management Act.

ADMINISTRATIVE REVIEW (OBJECTION) OPPORTUNITIES

Decisions that are categorically excluded from documentation in an Environmental Assessment (EA) or Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) are not subject to an administrative review process (pre-decisional objection process) (Agriculture Act of 2014, Subtitle A, Sec. 8006).

IMPLEMENTATION DATE

The project may be implemented immediately.

CONTACT

For additional information concerning this decision contact Dava Bauer, Cold Springs-Poteau Ranger District, P.O. Box 417, Booneville, AR 72927, telephone 479-637-4174 or e-mail dava.bauer@usda.gov.

1/11/2021

X



Signed by: TROY HEITHECKER

TROY HEITHECKER

Forest Supervisor

Date

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